
CHAPTER 13: Permit-Required Confined Spaces

The *MIOSHA General Industry Safety Standards – Part 90, Permit-Required Confined Spaces* and *General Industry Occupational Health Standards – Part 490 (R 325.63001)* provide rules that establish minimum requirements for the practices and procedures to protect employees from the hazards associated with entry into permit-required confined spaces. These rules do not apply to agriculture, construction, and shipyard employment.

The standard requires the employer to:

- a. Evaluate the workplace to determine if it contains any permit-required confined spaces (PRCS).
- b. If PRCSs are found, the employer must inform employees of the existence, location, and danger posed by these spaces. Place “**Danger Confined Space**” stickers at these locations.
- c. If employees are not to enter PRCSs, the employer must take steps to prevent entry (i.e., postings, locks, etc.).
- d. If employees will enter PRCSs, the employer must develop and implement a written permit space entry program that complies with the standard. Persons acting as entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors must be trained according to the standard.

A confined space meets all of the following criteria:

- It is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work.
- It has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (i.e., tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, pits, etc.).
- It is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

A PRCS has one, or more, of the following characteristics:

- a. It contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- b. It contains a material that has the potential for engulfing the entrant (i.e., liquids, grain, sand, coal, etc.).
- c. It has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
- d. It contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Section Two—MIOSHA Regulations

Entry into PRCs may be undertaken by following a complete permit entry program or alternate entry procedures. If atmospheric, engulfment, and/or mechanical hazards in the PRC cannot be eliminated and/or controlled prior to entry, a complete permit entry program must be followed. Refer to the standard for a complete description of a permit entry program. If the only hazard in the space is an actual or potential atmospheric hazard that can be controlled through continuous forced air ventilation, the alternate entry procedures can be used. A PRC can be reclassified as a nonpermit space only if the employer certifies in writing that all hazards in the space are eliminated. The hazards can be eliminated either from outside the space or by following a permit system or alternate entry protocol and entering the space to complete the necessary task(s). Such a space is considered reclassified as a nonpermit space until such time as the hazard(s) are reintroduced into the space. It should also be noted that an employer may have non-permit confined spaces in their establishment that may have to be reclassified as PRCs if potential hazards are introduced into the space.

If you have PRCs, we strongly encourage you to obtain a copy of this standard and related education materials from the Consultation Education and Training Division.

DANGER		
PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE		
SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED! SEE AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL BEFORE ENTRY.		
The following is a list and location of Permit Required Confined Spaces found in the establishment. <input type="checkbox"/> Note! Consult written program for list of Permit Required Confined Spaces if too numerous to identify here.		
Type of Permit Required Confined Space	Location	Type of Entry (Select code(s) letter from list below)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Type of Entry Procedure		
A. Full Permit Entry Procedure		
B. Alternate Entry Procedure		
C. Non-Permit or Reclassified as Non-Permit Prior To Entry		
D. Entry Procedures Based on Rules Other Than 1910.146, Permit Required Confined Space Entry Standard		
NOTE: This poster may be used as one of the means to inform employees of the existence and location of Permit-Required Confined Spaces as required by Rule 1910.146(c)(2) of MIOSHA Standards.		
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